

Application Serial No. 10/635,061

Amendment A - Reply to Non-Final Office Action of December 13, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for installing and removing a flexible flat cable with respect to a protective sleeve having a longitudinal opening therein, the tool comprising:  
a body having a longitudinal axis and a slot formed in the body longitudinally about the axis, the slot having a generally arcuate shape with a closed end on one side of the body, and an open end on an opposite side of the body, wherein  
such that the open end forms a receptacle that is adapted to allow lateral ingress and egress of the flexible flat cable[;]; and  
when a longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable is located in the slot, the longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable defines a chord having a dimension that is less than a lateral dimension of the longitudinal opening of the protective sleeve; and  
a shelf formed in the body adjacent to the open end of slot that is adapted to capture a side edge of the flexible flat cable in order to retain the longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable in the body ~~when the flexible flat cable is located in the slot.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein  
the arcuate shape of the slot is semi-circular, spans approximately 180 degrees, and is adapted to support an entire width of the flexible flat cable, and  
the slot has a circumferential length extending from the closed end to the shelf that is approximately equal to a lateral dimension of the flexible flat cable.
3. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the slot defines an inner wall having an inner radius, and an outer wall having an outer radius, such that the outer radius is greater than the inner radius, and the shelf is formed at a shelf radius that is greater than a radius of the open end.

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4. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the slot segments the body into a lower portion and an upper portion, and the upper portion is cantilevered and flexible relative to the lower portion.

5. (Original) The tool of claim 4, wherein the lower and upper portions of the body have edges that are polished or beveled to avoid scuffing the flexible flat cable.

6. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein  
the slot segments the body into ~~[[has]]~~ a flat lower surface and a curved upper surface,  
and  
the flat lower surface is adapted to contact a planar base of the protective sleeve.

7-24 (Canceled)

25. (New) The tool of claim 1, wherein  
the flexible flat cable has a first planar side and a second planar side,  
when the longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable is located in the slot, the  
longitudinal section of the flexible flat cable retains a smooth radius supported  
evenly on both the first planar side and the second planar side.

26. (New) A method comprising:  
installing a flexible flat cable within a protective sleeve having a longitudinal opening  
therein utilizing the tool of claim 1.

27. (New) A method comprising:  
removing a flexible flat cable from a protective sleeve having a longitudinal opening  
therein utilizing the tool of claim 1.